

Claims

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3 1. A method for organizing a dialogue of messages between a
4 moderator and a number of participants in communication over a network
5 comprising:

6 obtaining information about the participants;
7 providing to the participants a question;
8 receiving from each of one or more sending participants a first-round
9 message in response to the question;
10 grouping at least some of the participants into groups;
11 for one or more of the sending participants, automatically sending the
12 received first-round message to one or more receiving participants with whom
13 the sending participant is grouped; and
14 receiving from each of one or more of the receiving participants a
15 follow-up message in response to the first-round message from the sending
16 participant.

17 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are based on the
18 registration information entered by participants.

19 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are created randomly.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are created based upon
21 the first-round answers.

22 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the following
23 steps one or more times: sending one or more of the follow-up messages to one
24 or more receiving participants with whom the sender of the follow-up message is
25 grouped and receiving from one or more recipients of the follow-up message a
26 follow-up message in response.

27 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from at least
some of the participants an indication that the question should be used for further

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1 14. The system of claim 8, further comprising a threaded messaging
2 module that allows messages to be sent, posted, and archived.

3 15. The system of claim 14, wherein messages can be promoted from the
4 question module to the threaded messaging module.

5 16. The system of claim 8, further comprising a chat module that allows
6 participants to send messages in real time over the network, and a threaded
7 messaging module that allows messages to be sent, posted, and archived.

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